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Third Conference of Friends of America
Held at Indianapolis. Minutes. 1898

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MINUTES

DECLARATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

OF THE

THIRD

CONFERENCE OF FRIENDS

OF AMERICA,

HELD IN INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA,

1897.

PUBLISHED BY DIRECTION OF THE CONFERENCE.

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INTRODUCTION.

ACCORDING to the plan of organization adopted by the Yearly Meetings uniting in the conference of American Friends, held in Indianapolis, Ind., in 1892, such a delegate conference was to be held every five years. The conference of 1892 appointed a committee consisting of one from each delegation present, to make the necessary arrangements for the next conference which would occur in 1897. This committee was authorized to add to its own number representatives of other Yearly Meetings if any should desire to unite. Canada Yearly Meeting, and the two new Yearly Meetings of Oregon and California set up after the conference of 1892, joined in making the arrangements, thus uniting thirteen Yearly Meetings in the conference of 1897, all on the American continent except that of Philadelphia.

This committee selected the nineteenth day of Tenth month, 1897, as the date for opening the conference, and Indianapolis, Ind., as the place. The conference was held in the Friends' new, commodious meeting-house on North Alabama and Thirteenth Streets, Indianapolis, the use of which the Friends of the city tendered to the conference.

The Committee of Arrangements also provided a program, as follows:

PROGRAM FOR THE INDIANAPOLIS CONFERENCE OF 1897.

Joseph J. Mills, Chairman, and Emma B. Malone, one of the Secretaries of the last Conference, will act in these positions until the permanent organization is effected.

THIRD-DAY, TENTH MONTH 19.

7.30 p.m.—Devotional meeting. Presentation of the credentials of delegates. Appointment of a committee to nominate permanent officers and the members of the Business Committee.

FOURTH-DAY, TENTH MONTH 20.

9.30 a.m.—Report of the Nominating Committee, and the election of officers. Miscellaneous business. Subject for consideration: "Quakerism, its Theory and its Practice," Dr. James Carey Thomas.

2.30 p.m.—"Should Future Conferences have Legislative Authority?" Rufus M. Jones; "A Uniform Discipline for the American Yearly Meetings," Edmund Stanley.

7.00 p.m.—"Christian Sociology," Thomas Newlin.

FIFTH-DAY, TENTH MONTH 21.

9.30 a.m.—"Our Periodical Literature," Absalom Rosenberger; "The Need of a Fuller History of the Society of Friends in America," J. B. Unthank.

2.30 p.m.—Consideration of subjects proposed by the Business Committee.

7.00 p.m.—"The Qualification for the Christian Ministry," J. J. Mills; "How Shall we Foster the Spiritual Gifts of Our Young Members?" Isom P. Wooton.

SIXTH-DAY, TENTH MONTH 22.

9.30 a.m.—"The Regulation of the Ministry," Elwood O. Ellis; "The Authority of Evangelistic Committees," Eliza C. Armstrong.

2.30 p.m.—Consideration of subjects proposed by the Business Committee.

7.00 p.m.—What is "Pastoral Work?" Allen Jay; "The Position and Authority of the Pastor," Thomas C. *Brown.*

SEVENTH-DAY, TENTH MONTH 23.

9.30 a.m.—"The Position and Function of the Elder," Mary M. Hobbs. Consideration of subjects proposed by the Business Committee.

2.30 p.m.—Adoption of such declarations as the conference may decide to make. Concluding business.

A general discussion of each subject will follow the opening address.

MINUTES.

At a conference of delegates from thirteen Yearly Meetings of the Society of Friends on the American continent, held in Indianapolis, Ind., commencing the nineteenth day of Tenth month, 1897, at 7.30 p.m.

The conference was called to order by Timothy Nicholson, of Indiana Yearly Meeting, chairman of the Committee on Arrangements. He stated that Joseph John Mills, president of the last conference, was expected to preside at the first session; but, he being detained at home by the illness of his wife, the committee had requested Thomas C. Brown, vice-president of that conference, to act as temporary chairman, and Emma B. Malone, one of the secretaries of the same conference, as temporary secretary.

The first hour of the conference was given to a devotional meeting, opened by the chairman, Thomas C. Brown, reading the forty-second Psalm. This was followed by a season of prayer, and supplication for the Divine blessing and guidance during the various sessions of the conference.

From the minutes of the several Yearly Meetings it appeared that the following delegates to the conference had been appointed by them, viz.:

New England.—Charles H. Jones, Joseph E. Briggs, Ezra Hawkes, Rufus M. Jones, Ruth S. Murray, Salome C. Wheeler, Emeline H. Tuttle, Sarah J. Swift, Alice W. Maxfield.

New York.—James Wood, Carolena M. Wood, Harry R. Keates, Mary S. Knowles, Robert I. Murray, Elias G. Minard, Elmer D. Gildersleeve.

Baltimore.—James Carey Thomas, Joseph P. Elliott, Margaret H. Elliott, Rebecca E. Thomas, Samuel E. Neave.

North Carolina.—Walter White, Hugh W. Dixon, Levi Cox, Mary E. Cartland, Alice R. King, Mary C. Woody, Mary M. Hobbs, Sarah Jenette, David E. Sampson, Zeno H. Dixon.

Ohio.—Daniel H. Wood, Jacob Baker, Nancy E. Hall, Frederic J. Cope, Elizabeth M. Jenkins, J. Walter Malone, John Pennington, Wm. J. Harrison, Edward Mott, Emma B. Malone.

Indiana.—Francis W. Thomas, Timothy Nicholson, Mahalah Jay, Hannah Lewis Smith, Robert W. Douglas, Margaret B. Shultz, Ann Gause, Elwood O. Ellis, Abijah J. Weaver, Allen Jay, Harvey Ratliff, Esther Cook, Thomas N. White, Eliza W. Hiatt, Joseph John Mills, Mary H. Goddard, William S. Wooton, Henry Pickett, Joseph O. Binford, Ella J. Davis, Enos Harvey, Samuel C. Mills, Charles E. Hiatt, A. Jennie Ridgway, Hannah D. Francisco.

Western.—Andrew F. Mitchell, Amos Sanders, Esther T. Pritchard, David Hadley, Peter W. Raidabaugh, S. Edgar Nicholson, Seth Mills, Moses C. Stevens, John Henderson, Eunice Furnas, Lewis E. Stout, James Jones, Thomas C. Brown, Martha N. Lindley, Amos K. Hollowell, Jesse

Mills, Eliza C. Armstrong, Ruth Newsom, Sarah J. King, Jackson L. Jessup, Martha E. Newlin.

Iowa.—Isom P. Wooton, Zenas L. Martin, Absalom Rosenberger, John H. Hadley, Emma F. Coffin, Matilda W. Atkinson, Herbert J. Mott, Mary M. Parker, John F. Hanson, Levi Marshall, A. H. Lindley, Joshua Dillon, Philip Slack, Stephen M. Hadley, Lawrie Tatum, L. Maria Deane.

Canada.—William I. Moore, Robert H. Rogers, Phebe J. Wright, Sarah A. Dale.

Kansas.—John M. Weeks, William P. Haworth, S. Adelbert Wood, Josiah Binford, James Pitts, L. Ella Hartley, Elizabeth Butler, Stella F. Jenkins, Cyrus R. Dixon, Edmund Stanley, Isaac A. Woodard, Lydia M. Henshaw, Ellen M. Craven, Mary A. Brown, Isaac Maris, Richard A. Cox, Enos W. Carson.

Wilmington.—Charles E. Terrell, Rachel Wright, James B. Unthank, Eliza H. Thorne, Levi Mills, Harriet F. G. Peelle, Deborah Lloyd, Benjamin Hawkins, Fremont B. Milner, Asenath Terrell.

Oregon.—John Henry Douglas, Thomas Newlin, Alfred T. Ware, Jane H. Blair, B. S. Cook, Marion George, Esther P. Terrell.

California.—Thomas Armstrong, William V. Coffin, Charles E. Tebbetts, Nancy M. Arnold, Ella C. Veeder, Rebecca S. Naylor.

James Wood stated that an invitation had been extended to John B. Garrett, Isaac Sharpless, and George Warner, of Philadelphia, to attend the conference, but that they had been unable to be in attendance.

Harriet Green, of England, being present, the cour-

tesies of the Conference were most cordially extended to her.

The committee to make arrangements for this Conference reported that they had divided the work between two sub-committees, one on local arrangements, one on program; that Timothy Nicholson was chairman of the first, James Wood of the second.

James Wood, on behalf of the Committee on Program, reported that the program had been made up from suggestions sent to them, and that different ones had been invited to present papers, and it was desirable that the fullest discussion possible should follow the reading of each paper.

[Printed copies of the program, for which see pages 2 and 3, had been distributed among the delegates.—Ed.]

Allen Jay proposed that the program be accepted, which was united with, and Anna Taylor, who had served both preceding conferences very acceptably as stenographer, was also accepted as stenographer.

After a recess of five minutes the following delegates, chosen by their respective delegations, were reported to compose a Committee on the Permanent Organization of the conference and a Business Committee, viz.:

Committee on Organization.—New England, Ruth S. Murray; New York, Elmer D. Gildersleeve; Baltimore, Joseph P. Elliott; North Carolina, Mary C. Woody; Ohio, John Pennington; Indiana, Timothy Nicholson; Western, William L. Pyle; Iowa, A. H. Lindley; Canada, Robert H. Rogers; Kansas, Wm. P. Haworth; Wilmington, Levi Mills; Oregon, Jane H. Blair; California, Thomas Armstrong.

Business Committee.—New England, Rufus M. Jones; New York, James Wood; Baltimore, James Carey Thomas;

North Carolina, David E. Sampson; Ohio, Jacob Baker; Indiana, Allen Jay; Western, P. W. Raidabaugh; Iowa, Wm. Jasper Hadley; Canada, Wm. I. Moore; Kansas, Cyrus R. Dixon; Wilmington, Charles E. Terrell; Oregon, John H. Douglas; California, Charles E. Tebbetts.

The Governor of the State of Indiana, having been invited to be present at the opening of the conference, answered with the following letter, which was read in the conference:

"Executive Department, State of Indiana.
Indianapolis, Ind., October 18th, 1897.

"My Dear Sir:

"I have your favor of the 16th inst., inviting me to be present at the delegate conference of the Friends' Church, to be held on the evening of the 19th inst.

"Let me assure you this would be a pleasure to me were it not that I will be absent from the city. I feel the necessity of a few days' rest at my country home, and I had planned to leave on the early train to-morrow morning, but a meeting of the tax board will compel me to defer my departure until the eleven o'clock train.

"I have lived a close neighbor to the Friends for many years. Two churches are in my township. I have worked with them in Sunday School work, in church work, have met them as neighbors, and I can truly say that better men and women, actuated by loftier principles cannot be found than the members of the Friends' church. So that if I must judge the church at large from the members who live in my township, and those whom I have met in adjoining counties, Boone, Parke, and Hendricks, I am sure that it must be composed of the most noble men and women. I regret that I will be unable to be present, but my absence will be occasioned by necessity and not by choice.

"Wishing you a profitable meeting, I am with best wishes,

"(Signed) JAMES A. MOUNT."

"Amos K. Hollowell, Esq., City."

The Committee on Permanent Organization was instructed to bring in names of delegates for a president, vice-president, two secretaries, a treasurer, and an Auditing Committee of three, for the permanent officers of the conference.

The printed copies of the program being exhausted, it was referred to the Business Committee to secure more for future sessions.

The daily devotional meeting was appointed for 8.15 a.m., under the care of the following committee appointed by the chair, viz.: Francis W. Thomas, of Indiana; Emma F. Coffin, of Iowa; Levi Mills, of Wilmington; Carolena M. Wood, of New York.

Propositions directed to the conference by the Yearly Meetings were referred to the Business Committee which shall fix the time for their consideration.

Wm. L. Pyle spoke words of most cordial welcome, on behalf of Friends of Western Yearly Meeting and Indianapolis Monthly Meeting, to their homes and hearts.

The conference then adjourned.

FOURTH-DAY MORNING, TENTH MONTH 20.

The conference was called to order by Thomas C. Brown.

Harry R. Keates opened the devotional exercises by invoking the Divine blessing on the interests of the day.

The Committee on Permanent Organization made the following report, which was unanimously adopted as a whole.

The committee appointed for the nomination of officers for the conference met according to appointment, and were unanimously agreed in presenting the following names:

President, S. Edgar Nicholson, of Western Yearly Meeting.

Vice-President, Edmund Stanley, of Kansas.

Secretaries, Mary C. Woody, of North Carolina, and Carolena M. Wood, of New York.

Treasurer, Wm. Jasper Hadley, of Iowa.

Auditing Committee, Elizabeth M. Jenkins, of Ohio; Joseph P. Elliott, of Baltimore; Robert H. Rogers, of Canada.

It is recommended that this Auditing Committee, not only attend to the accounts of the last conference, but also to those of the conference which is now in session.

On behalf of the committee,

(Signed) RUTH S. MURRAY.

S. Edgar Nicholson, upon taking the chair as president of the conference, expressed his appreciation of the confidence in him manifested by calling him to that position; also his feeling of humbleness and insufficiency in assuming it, and his purpose honestly to do his best to serve the conference.

The following report from the Business Committee was received, viz.:

RULES OF PROCEDURE.

I. The Business Committee recommended that the proceedings of the conference be conducted according to parliamentary usage, as far as possible avoiding technicalities.

II. It is further recommended that whenever questions cannot be settled by consent, they shall be determined by the delegates from each yearly meeting casting the number of votes to which their yearly meeting is entitled, and that such vote be cast by the chairman of the delegation announcing the number for or against the proposition before the conference.

III. It is advised that members of the conference who present papers on special subjects be recommended to formulate their conclusions in the form of definite resolutions for discussion and for the action of the conference.

IV. It is recommended that four sessions of the conference be held each day, viz.:

Devotional meeting from 8.15 to 9.15 a.m.

Business session from 9.30 to 12 m.

Business session from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.

Business session from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Each delegate upon rising to speak shall be recognized by the president, and the name of the speaker and the yearly meeting of which he or she is a member shall be distinctly announced.

V. No speaker shall occupy more than fifteen minutes in his address without the consent of the president, nor shall he speak a second time without permission, and the second address shall be limited to five minutes.

(Signed) ALLEN JAY, Chairman.
P. W. RAIDABAUGH, Sec.

The first clause of this report was adopted.

The second clause was approved.

The third clause was referred back to the Business Committee.

In the fourth clause the time of holding the evening session was changed from 7 p.m. to 7.30 p.m., and the time of adjournment set for 9.30. The remainder of the clause was approved.

The fifth clause was amended so as to allow but ten minutes for the first address of each delegate instead of fifteen; and permission to occupy more time to be given by the conference instead of by the chair.

Edward M. Wistar, of Philadelphia, chairman of the

Associated Executive Committee on Indian Affairs, was welcomed to the conference, and invited to take part in the discussions.

Mary E. Cartland, of North Carolina, Elwood O. Ellis, of Indiana, Julia F. Dixon to fill a vacancy in the Kansas delegation, and Washington Hadley and Sarah J. Armstrong to fill vacancies in the California delegation, were introduced as members of the conference.

The question having been asked whether delegations from the Yearly Meetings might fill up their ranks with any not appointed alternates, the chair ruled that only the delegates or their alternates appointed by their Yearly Meetings should be members of this conference; unless special authority had been given the delegations by their own yearly meetings to fill vacancies from members of their yearly meetings who were present as visitors.

James Carey Thomas read a paper on "Quakerism, its Theory and its Practice."

S. Adelbert Wood, of Kansas Yearly Meeting; Rufus M. Jones, of New England; L. Maria Deane, of Iowa; Harry R. Keates, of New York; Harvey Ratliff, of Indiana; James Wood, of New York, and Harriet Green, of England, took part in the discussion.

It was decided that the author of each paper should have ten minutes to close the discussion on the subject, and James Carey Thomas closed the discussion accordingly.

The conference adjourned.

FOURTH-DAY AFTERNOON.

The conference opened at 2.30 p.m. Prayer was offered by one of the delegates.

The Business Committee presented the following:

The Business Committee withdraws the third proposition offered this morning, and reports that the committee will present resolutions covering the various subjects discussed.

Joseph John Mills, of Indiana, and Deborah Lloyd, of Wilmington, arrived at this session.

Clarkson H. Parker, alternate for Indiana Yearly Meeting, Ella C. Coffin, alternate for Western, and Irena Hunnicutt, alternate for Wilmington, were placed in their respective delegations to fill vacancies.

The minutes of the previous sessions of the conference were read, and after alterations, were approved.

The Business Committee presented the following resolution:

Resolved, That this conference re-affirms its allegiance to the position held by the Society of Friends in regard to the Headship of Christ and the rights of individual members in the exercise of their gifts under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

The resolution was referred back to the Business Committee to provide a more comprehensive declaration to cover the important deliberations of the morning session.

A paper upon the subject, "Shall Future Conferences have Legislative Authority?" was read by Rufus M. Jones, of New England Yearly Meeting. Francis W. Thomas, of Indiana Yearly Meeting, and James Carey Thomas, of Baltimore, led in the discussion of it.

At this point Dr. L. L. Carpenter and Dr. D. R. Duncan a delegation from the national convention of the Christian (Disciple) Church now in session in this

city, came with fraternal greetings, and invited the conference to unite with their convention in a session of Christian fellowship.

Edmund Stanley, of Kansas Yearly Meeting, read a paper on the subject, "A Uniform Discipline for the American Yearly Meetings."

Discussion upon the subjects of the two papers, the one by Rufus M. Jones, and the one by Edmund Stanley, was deferred until to-morrow, the program for the forenoon being passed forward to the afternoon.

A motion prevailed to return the greetings, so kindly sent from the national convention of the Christian Church, by a delegation from our conference. Timothy Nicholson, of Indiana; Levi Mills, of Wilmington; Emma B. Malone, of Ohio, and Eliza C. Armstrong, of Western Yearly Meeting, were appointed for this service.

After announcements the conference adjourned.

FOURTH-DAY EVENING.

The conference re-assembled at 7.30 o'clock, and was opened with prayer.

The minutes of the afternoon session were read, and after some corrections, approved.

John Henry Douglas, a delegate from Oregon Yearly Meeting, arrived at this session.

The committee to carry our fraternal greetings to the National Christian convention was instructed to invite them to meet with us in a season of devotion at 8.15 on Sixth-day morning.

Thomas Newlin, of Oregon, read a paper on "Christian Sociology." The discussion which followed was participated in by Wm. L. Pearson, of Iowa; Rufus M. Jones, of New England; Elwood O. Ellis, of Indiana; Isom P.

Wooton, of Iowa; James Carey Thomas, of Baltimore; Emeline H. Tuttle, of New England; S. Adelbert Wood, of Kansas; J. Walter Malone, of Ohio; David E. Sampson, of North Carolina, and S. Edgar Nicholson, of Western.

The conference adjourned.

FIFTH-DAY MORNING, TENTH MONTH 21.

The conference opened at 9.30 with prayer.

The following resolution was received from the Business Committee, and was unanimously adopted:

The conference re-affirms the original position of the Society of Friends upon the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith, and upon those more distinctive doctrines of the spiritual character of the Christian dispensation, the High Priesthood of Jesus Christ, the priesthood of all believers, the absence of every form and degree of sacerdotalism, the conferrence of divers gifts upon the church, and the rights of individual members in the exercise of their gifts in their proper spheres, under the leading of the Holy Spirit.

The following recommendations from the various yearly meetings were received from the Business Committee, and read:

Indiana Yearly Meeting sends the following from its minutes:

It is the judgment of this meeting that the conferences of 1887 and of 1892 have strengthened the bonds of fellowship in the yearly meetings, and prompted unity in some important matters, and we request the approaching conference to consider whether the time has not come to advise the yearly meetings to confer delegated powers upon the conference, so that, in the future, its conclusions

shall be binding on all the yearly meetings that unite in granting such authority.

The following is received from Wilmington Yearly Meeting:

At Wilmington Yearly Meeting, held in Wilmington, O., held Eighth month 19th, 20th and 21st, the delegates to the ensuing conference of Friends at Indianapolis, were instructed to ask the conference to formulate some plan of union or federation among the various yearly meetings, and submit the same to the various yearly meetings for their ratification.

(Signed) JAMES B. UNTHANK, Clerk.

The following communication is received from Western Yearly Meeting:

The following communications appear on the reports from Carmel and Kokomo Quarterly Meetings:

This meeting endorses the proposition and instructs our delegates to present the matter as contained in the Carmel report, to the Conference of yearly meetings.

Extracts from the reports of Carmel Quarterly Meeting:

The subject of a uniformity of Discipline in our various yearly meetings was presented, and the meeting united in forwarding the following communication to the Yearly Meeting:

Recognizing the fact that among the various evangelical churches of Christendom our system of government is unique, exceptional, and wanting in that uniformity which we believe necessary to the most healthy growth and successful prosecution of the Master's work, and believing that the time has come in the history and development of the Friends' Church when the objects for which we exist

as a church can better be promoted by a closer organic union of the various yearly meetings in faith and practice in all lines of Christian work; therefore, it is the sense of this meeting that the Friends' Church in America should have a common Discipline in place of a distinct one for each yearly meeting.

We, therefore, propose that the Yearly Meeting instruct its delegates in the quinquennial conference, to be held in Indianapolis in Tenth month next, to present the matter to said conference, and to support any proposition having such end in view with the understanding, however, that in the purely local affairs of the church the autonomy of the separate yearly meetings shall not be disturbed. Such Discipline shall be in force in the yearly meetings accepting the same when it shall have been adopted by not less than — yearly meetings.

Taken from the minutes of Carmel Quarterly Meeting, held Sixth month 5th, 1897.

JONATHAN JOHNSON, Clerk.

Taken from the minutes of Western Yearly Meeting of Friends' Church, held at Plainfield, Ind., Ninth month 17th to Ninth month 22d, inclusive, 1897.

THOMAS C. BROWN, Clerk.

The discussion of the topics, "Should Future Conferences Have Legislative Authority?" and "A Uniform Discipline for the American Yearly Meetings," was resumed, James Wood, of New York, Levi Mills, of Wilmington, and Thomas Newlin, of Oregon, participating.

A feeling prayer was offered for the perfect leading of the Lord.

The discussion was continued by Charles E. Tebbetts, of California; William L. Pearson, of Iowa; Esther T. Pritchard, of Western; Francis W. Thomas, of Indiana;

Emma F. Coffin, of Iowa; James Carey Thomas, of Baltimore; Benjamin Hawkins, of Wilmington; Ruth S. Murray, of New England; Joseph John Mills, of Indiana; Edward Wistar, of Philadelphia, and David Hadley, of Western.

The time of adjournment having arrived, it was decided to close this discussion, and the Business Committee was directed to bring to the session at 2 o'clock a resolution embodying the thoughts expressed this morning.

The conference adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock.

FIFTH-DAY AFTERNOON.

The conference opened at 2 o'clock, with a time of prayer.

The Business Committee presented the following communication from Kansas Yearly Meeting:

To the Conference:

Kansas Yearly Meeting at its session this year reaffirmed its position taken in 1887 and 1892 favoring a general conference with legislative powers and a uniform Discipline for all the yearly meetings, and instructed her delegates in accordance therewith.

(Signed) EDMUND STANLEY,
Clerk of the Yearly Meeting.

Rufus M. Jones, of New England, closed the discussion on the subject, "Shall Future Conferences Have Legislative Authority?" and Edmund Stanley, of Kansas, closed the discussion on the subject of "A Uniform Discipline for the American Yearly Meetings."

The following communication from the Business Committee was submitted:

1. This Conference believes that much benefit would result to our branch of the church of Christ from such a

union of our yearly meetings as would tend to protect them from common dangers, and to strengthen their joint participation in Christian work.

We believe this could be accomplished by the yearly meetings conferring upon future conferences limited legislative authority within distinctly defined spheres that would not interfere with the autonomy of the yearly meetings in their relation to their own members or to their separate interests.

2. It is advisable for this Conference to appoint a committee to consist of one representative from each yearly meeting to formulate a plan for closer union to be submitted to the yearly meetings for their approval, and which will become operative when adopted by such a number of them as may be agreed upon.

3. As many practical benefits would result from some uniform disciplinary regulation in all the yearly meetings on the American continent, it is advisable to appoint a committee to consist of two representatives from each of the yearly meetings to prepare a Discipline for submission to the yearly meetings for their approval, and which will become operative in those accepting it when adopted by such a number of them as may be agreed upon.

The two recommendations were considered separately, and the first and second clauses were adopted. The third clause was then considered, and unanimously adopted.

It was decided that the two subjects be referred to one committee, and each delegation was directed to report to the evening session the names of two friends to constitute this committee and two as alternates.

The committee to return our greetings to the National Christian Convention report that they had received a most cordial welcome, and had arranged for a season of united

devotion from 8.45 to 9.15 to-morrow morning, Tenth month 22d.

The matter was left in the hands of this committee in co-operation with the committee in charge of our devotional meetings.

The Conference resumed the order of business.

Absalom Rosenberger read a paper upon "Our Periodical Literature."

The discussion was participated in by S. Edgar Nicholson, of Western Yearly Meeting, Charles H. Jones, of New England; Rufus M. Jones, of New England; Peter W. Raidabaugh, of Western; James Wood, of New York; Emma B. Malone, of Ohio; S. Adelbert Wood, of Kansas; Wm. L. Pearson, of Iowa; Alfred T. Ware, of Oregon; Charles E. Tebbetts, of California; Moses C. Stevens, of Western.

The conference then adjourned.

FIFTH-DAY EVENING.

The Conference met again at 7.30 o'clock. After a season of devotion the following names were brought in from the different delegations to constitute the committee to consider what legislative authority should be conferred upon future Conferences and to prepare a uniform Discipline for submission to the yearly meetings.

COMMITTEE.*

New England.—Charles H. Jones, Rufus M. Jones. Alternates.—Ruth S. Murray, Sarah J. Swift.

**Chairman.*—James Wood, of Mt. Kisco, New York.
Secretary.—Mahalah Jay, of Richmond, Ind.
Corresponding Secretary.—Rufus M. Jones, of Haverford, Pennsylvania.

New York.—James Wood, Mary S. Knowles. Alternates.—Harry R. Keates, Carolena M. Wood.

Baltimore.—James Carey Thomas, Samuel R. Neave. Alternates.—Joseph P. Elliott, Margaret H. Elliott.

North Carolina.—Mary E. Cartland, Mary C. Woody. Alternates.—David E. Sampson, Walter White.

Ohio.—William J. Harrison, Emma B. Malone. Alternates.—Jacob Baker, Elizabeth M. Jenkins.

Indiana.—Joseph John Mills, Mahalah Jay. Alternates.—Timothy Nicholson, Hannah Lewis Smith.

Western.—Eliza C. Armstrong, S. Edgar Nicholson. Alternates.—Esther Tuttle Pritchard, Thomas C. Brown.

Iowa.—Absalom Rosenberger, L. Maria Deane. Alternates.—Stephen M. Hadley, William Jasper Hadley.

Canada.—William I. Moore, Phebe J. Wright. Alternates.—Robert H. Rogers, Sarah A. Dale.

Kansas.—Edmund Stanley, L. Ella Hartley. Alternates.—S. Adelbert Wood, Julia F. Dixon.

Wilmington.—James B. Unthank, Eliza H. Thorne. Alternates.—Levi Mills, Harriet F. G. Peelle.

Oregon.—John Henry Douglas, Jane H. Blair. Alternates.—Thomas Newlin, B. S. Cook.

California.—Charles E. Tebbetts, Nancy M. Arnold. Alternates.—William V. Coffin, Rebecca S. Naylor.

These nominations were confirmed by the Conference.

The subject of "The need of a fuller history of the Society of Friends in America" was presented by James B. Unthank, of Wilmington Yearly Meeting, and Joseph John Mills, of Indiana, read a paper on the "Qualification for the Christian Ministry."

Francis W. Thomas, of Indiana; James B. Unthank, of Wilmington; David E. Sampson, of North Carolina; Mary C. Woody, of North Carolina; John Pennington, of Ohio; Charles E. Tebbetts, of California; Moses C. Stevens, of Western; James Carey Thomas, of Baltimore; Charles H. Jones, of New England; David Hadley, of Western; Jacob Baker, of Ohio, made remarks in reference to this paper.

The question "How shall we foster the Spiritual gifts of our young members?" was presented by Isom P. Wooton, of Iowa. S. Adelbert Wood, of Kansas; Samuel R. Neave, of Baltimore; Joseph O. Binford, of Indiana; J. Walter Malone, of Ohio, followed on the same subject.

The Conference then adjourned.

SIXTH-DAY MORNING, 10TH MO. 22, 1897.

The Conference convened ten minutes late on account of the joint devotional meeting with the National Christian Convention.

Prayer having been offered, the minutes of the four previous sessions were read, and after slight alterations were adopted.

"The Regulation of the Ministry" was the title of a the paper read by Elwood O. Ellis. After remarks by Jesse W. Wilmore, of Kansas, Eliza C. Armstrong, of Western, read a paper on "The Authority of Evangelistic Committees." Harry R. Keates, of New York; J. Walter Malone, of Ohio; S. Adelbert Wood, of Kansas; David E. Sampson,

of North Carolina; Rufus M. Jones, of New England, took part in the discussion. It was decided to give thirty minutes to continue the discussion at the opening of the afternoon session, each speaker to be limited to five minutes.

The session closed by singing one stanza of "Coronation."

SIXTH-DAY AFTERNOON.

The session opened at 2.30. Prayer was offered, and James Carey Thomas, of Baltimore; Harriet Green, of England; Rufus M. Jones, of New England; Francis W. Thomas, of Indiana; Emma F. Coffin, of Iowa; David Hadley, of Western; Timothy Nicholson, of Indiana; Robert H. Rogers, of Canada, continued the discussion of the forenoon.

Elwood O. Ellis and Eliza C. Armstrong closed the discussion with brief expression.

Edward M. Wistar, of Philadelphia, Chairman of the Associated Executive Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs, made a few remarks upon the Indian work. He was followed by Mahalah Jay, of Indiana; L. Ella Hartley, of Kansas; Harriet Green, of England, and Emeline H. Tuttle, of New England.

The following resolutions from the Business Committee were adopted :

Whereas, There has been, from the early history of Friends in America until the present time, an earnest concern regarding the welfare of the native Indians, and for their advancement along the lines of Christian civilization;

And Whereas, There grew from such concern, by successive steps, an organized, united effort of the yearly

meetings known as " The Associated Executive Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs " ;

And Whereas, The said Associated Committee of delegates appointed by the yearly meetings has continued and is now carrying forward active mission work amongst remnants of several of the said Indian tribes, and represents the only united, organized work on the part of the American yearly meetings ;

And Whereas, According to the best judgment of those familiar with the so-called Indian problem, the need for fostering care of the religious bodies engaged in missionary work has by no means diminished ;

Resolved, That this Conference feels unity and sympathy with the said committee in its continued work and desires its encouragement and financial support on the part of the several yearly meetings here represented.

Resolved, That Friends have a present duty to the Indians which can best be discharged by continued and earnest united effort..

The subject of " A Hymnal for Friends' Church " was introduced by the Business Committee's reporting to the Conference the following communications on the subject from Western and Kansas Yearly Meetings, and proposing that, following the reading of these, Cyrus R. Dixon, of Kansas, be allowed fifteen minutes to present the subject :

" The committee appointed to consider the question of a Friends' Hymnal reports as below, which is satisfactory to the meeting, and the following committee is directed to give the subject attention for the coming year : Amos Sanders, Charles E. Newlin and Caroline L. Rees.

" The delegates to the Conference of Yearly Meetings are instructed to report the subject favorably to the Conference.

"'To the Yearly Meeting:

"'We, the committee appointed last year to have in consideration the subject of a "Hymnal for Friends' Church," have given attention to the subject of our appointment.

"'Realizing the difficulties of accomplishing the desired end by correspondence, we recommend that the subject be left in the hands of a small committee in order to keep it before the Yearly Meeting, and that it be recommended to the favorable consideration of the Conference of Yearly Meetings.

"'On behalf of the committee.

"'(Signed) AMOS SANDERS, Chairman.'

"Taken from the minutes of Western Yearly Meeting of Friends' Church, held in Plainfield, Ind., Ninth month 17th to Ninth month 22d, 1897.

"(Signed) THOMAS C. BROWN, Clerk."

"Kansas Yearly Meeting directs its delegates to bring before the Conference the subject 'Shall We Have a Friends' Hymnal?'

"The subject is referred to the Business Committee with the information that a short paper on the subject has been prepared by Cyrus R. Dixon.

"On behalf of the Kansas delegates.

"(Signed) CYRUS R. DIXON, Chairman."

Cyrus R. Dixon read a paper with the title "Shall Friends Have a Hymnal of Their Own?" John Pennington, of Ohio; Thomas Newlin, of Oregon; Charles H. Jones, of New England; Harry R. Keates, of New York; Mary C. Woody, of North Carolina; James Wood, of New York; Amos Sanders, of Western; Robert Pretlow, of Western; Lewis E. Stout, of Western, and Abijah Weaver, of Indiana, spoke upon this question.

The author of the paper closed the discussion.

A motion was carried that there be a committee appointed consisting of one from each delegation, to take this matter into consideration and, if they think proper, to prepare a copy of a hymnal and report it to the various yearly meetings. The delegations were directed to report each a name for member of this committee, to the evening session.

The following resolution from the Business Committee was read and, after discussion, adopted :

We hold that the Gospel of Christ is the remedy for the ills of mankind, and that it is wide-spread in its application and far-reaching in its results. It is facilitated in reaching men by the removal of the multitudinous barriers that surround them. Human society in all its interests needs its transforming power, and Christians should be unremitting in every effort that will aid its work. We therefore feel a deep interest in true Christian Sociology and we distrust all the movements in this new science that are divorced from faith in Christ.

We feel that the Church has given too little attention in the past to this important field of effort, so that it has been sometimes left to infidelity and agnosticism to claim it as distinctively their own.

We hold that the Church should be more fully aroused to its great duty in this direction, and should realize that beside the preaching of the Gospel there is a wide sphere for its application until men are firmly builded into the living temple of God and stand securely in the most holy faith.

The Conference adjourned.

SIXTH-DAY EVENING.

The Conference reassembled at 7.30, opening with prayer.

The following report from the Treasurer of the Conference of 1892, with the report of the Auditing Committee, was received and adopted :

Account of Lawrie Tatum, Treasurer of the Conference of Friends in America, with said Conference, held at Indianapolis, Indiana, 1892.

		Dr.	Cr.
1892—Tenth mo.	Stenographer's Bill,	$119 00	
	Tenth mo. S. E. Nicholson's Bill (Reporter),	16 00	
	Tenth mo. Interest on above borrowed money (90 days)..	2 79	
1893—Third mo.	Sundry expenses preparing for and during the Conference,	8 20	
	Third mo. Revision of Stenographic Report for Printer, and Reading Proof,	52 00	
	Printer's Bill as per Itemized Statement,	956 20	
	Interest, 60 days, on $808.90 (Indiana Yearly Meeting paid in advance, $207.50)	10 81	
	Total expense,	$1,165 00	

Divided among the Yearly Meetings in proportion to the number of delegates they were entitled to :

New England, (9 delegates), ...	$82 10
New York, (9 delegates), ...	82 10
Baltimore, (6 delegates), ...	54 75
North Carolina, (10 delegates), . . .	91 20
Ohio, (10 delegates), ...	91 20
Indiana, (23 delegates), ...	207 50
Western, (19 delegates), ...	173 20
Iowa, (17 delegates), ...	155 00
Kansas, (15 delegates), ...	136 75
Wilmington, (10 delegates), ...	91 20
Total number delegates, 128.	
Total received from Yearly Meetings, ...	$1,165 00

LAWRIE TATUM, Treasurer.

We, the committee appointed to examine the account of the Treasurer of the Conference of Friends, held in 1892, report that we have examined the account and vouchers therefor, and find them to be correct.

On behalf of the committee.

ELIZABETH M. JENKINS, Chairman.

Tenth mo. 21st, 1897.

In the delegation of Western Yearly Meeting, Hannah Pratt Jessup, alternate, was reported as a delegate in the place of Andrew F. Mitchell, who has left the Conference.

The delegations report names as below on the committee to consider the question of a Friends' Hymnal, and the subject is referred to them ·

**New England.*—Salome C. Wheeler.
New York.—Harry R. Keates.
Baltimore.—Samuel R. Neave.
North Carolina.—Mary C. Woody.
Ohio.—John Pennington.
Indiana.—Elwood O. Ellis.
Western.—Robert E. Pretlow.
Iowa.—Emma F. Coffin.
Canada.—Robert H. Rogers.
Kansas.—Cyrus R. Dixon.
Wilmington.—Fremont B. Milner.
Oregon.—Alfred T. Ware.
California.—Imelda A. Tebbetts.

The Business Committee offered the following resolution, viz.:

In the activities of modern thought new questions are constantly presented to the Church; among these are those growing out of what is called "Higher Criticism," and upon these true Christians desire to take correct positions. We desire to have the absolute truth of God, and we approve of true scholarship that is consecrated to the service of God, to correct the text of the Scriptures; and we rejoice in all the investigations that aid in the true understanding of the Word; but we wish to condemn the frequent attempts to attack the integrity of the Scriptures and to undermine their authority, which varying forms of unbelief make upon the canon under the cloak of "Higher Criticism," and which work very serious injury to those who are misled by them.

It sometimes requires a highly intelligent and sanctified

* *Chairman*—Cyrus R. Dixon, of Lawrence, Kansas.
Secretary—Alfred T. Ware, of Marshalltown, Iowa.

judgment to detect the purpose of these attempts, and our Church demands of its qualified members that they give diligent attention to these and warn our members against them.

We cannot too earnestly advise the members of the Church at large to reject all claims of authority for changes of any form or character in the recognized versions until these are confirmed by the consensus of Christian scholarship.

Cyrus R. Dixon, of Kansas; William L. Pearson, of Iowa; James B. Unthank, of Wilmington, David Hadley, of Western; Thomas Newlin, of Oregon; Esther T. Pritchard, of Western; William L. Harrison, of Ohio; Rufus M. Jones, of New England; Moses C. Stevens, of Western; and Francis W. Thomas, of Indiana, spoke on the subject, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

The Conference agreed to the following proposition from the Business Committee :

The Business Committee propose that the preparation, printing and distribution of the transactions of this Conference, including the form in which they shall be issued and the number of copies, be referred to the following committee, and they are authorized by the Conference to draw upon the several yearly meetings represented for their respective shares of the expense, in proportion to their membership. If necessary the Treasurer of the Conference is authorized to borrow the amount required in anticipation of their receipts. Committee : Timothy Nicholson, Mahalah Jay, Allen Jay.

It was decided that the Business Committee determine the number of copies of the proceedings of this Conference

to be printed, and that they be distributed among the yearly meetings in proportion to the membership.

Allen Jay, of Indiana, read a paper on "What is Pastoral Work?"

Two delegates from Ohio were excused from to-morrow morning's session.

The Conference then adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

SEVENTH-DAY MORNING, 10TH MONTH 23D, 1897.

The Conference opened near the time adjourned to.

Prayer was offered by James Carey Thomas.

Thomas C. Brown, of Western, read a paper "The Position and Authority of the Pastor." James Wood, of New York; Isom P. Wooton, of Iowa; John Henry Douglas, of Oregon, spoke upon this topic.

"The Position and Function of the Elder," a paper by Mary M. Hobbs, of North Carolina, was read by Mary E. Cartland. James Carey Thomas continued the discussion of the subject.

The Conference limited the speakers to five minutes each.

Charles E. Tebbetts, of California, and William L. Pearson, of Iowa, spoke.

It was decided that the paper prepared by William L. Pearson, and presented to the Business Committee, but which could not be read for lack of time, should be inserted in the proceedings without reading, in place of the stenographic report of his remarks.

Thomas Newlin, of Oregon; Robert I. Murray, of New

York; S. Adelbert Wood, of Kansas, and Moses C. Stevens, of Western, spoke briefly, when Thomas C. Brown and Allen Jay were called on to close the discussion.

Allen Jay declined his right to speak in favor of elders present.

Thomas N. White, of Indiana; William L. Pyle, of Western; James Wood, of New York; James B. Unthank, of Ohio; Ezra Hawkes, of New England; John Henderson, of Western; Martha N. Lindley, of Western, and Eliza H. Thorne, of Wilmington, occupied this time.

The Business Committee submitted the following conclusions which were adopted unanimously :

The various gifts bestowed upon the Church by its gracious Head must be diligently fostered and used if His purposes toward us and through us to the world are to be fulfilled. Each gift must be recognized, encouraged and developed upon its own lines, and exercised in its own proper sphere, the accompanying evidences of the Holy Spirit bearing witness to its authority. The Master is sometimes pleased to confer a single gift upon an individual and sometimes He endues His servants with a greater number, and for the true recognition of all these He gives to others a power of spiritual discernment. With an eye single upon the Master each must be faithful to that he has received.

We recognize the importance of the gift of the evangelist by which God carries on His pioneer work in the world.

The Church should co-operate in the exercise of this gift by encouraging its development and ascertaining the best fields for its operation. The committees of the Church to whom this service is entrusted need divine en-

lightenment and guidance for their duties and these should be performed by such a gentle exercise of authority as will best promote the service and cement the workers in loving accord.

The gifts of teaching and of speaking forth the mind and will of God are frequently associated in the enduement of a minister of the Word. As they are received through the Holy Spirit they can be profitably exercised only under His leading and direction. Faithfulness in these gifts implies faithfulness in everything that will aid their operation and increase their efficiency. Every operation of these gifts involves the use of the intellect. They are most efficient when the mind is trained so as to work clearly and accurately and is stored with knowledge that can be used to expound and illustrate the truth of God. A slothful minister fails to accomplish the purposes of the Master for and through him. Each should diligently study to be approved of God,—a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth.

In speaking thus of the duty of the ministers we wish also to emphasize the duty of the Church toward them and their service. Every baptized member should co-operate in some way in the work. It is the especial duty of elders to encourage and strengthen the ministers and to facilitate their labors and usefulness.

We recognize the great importance of the pastoral gift. This may be a separate gift, or it may be conferred in connection with that of the public ministry of the Word.

It is a great thing to be commissioned to tend and feed the flock of God. The service must receive constant attention, and can be but partially and imperfectly performed by limiting to one or two days of the week.

In the exercise of all these gifts the whole membership

of the Church must co-operate in spiritual and temporal things as God has prospered them, bearing one another's burdens, and thus fulfilling the law of Christ.

The following report of the Business Committee in the matter of a catechism was adopted :

California Yearly Meeting forwarded a request that steps be taken to prepare a catechism for the use of our young members. As New York Yearly Meeting has recently prepared such a work, we deem it unnecessary to do more than call attention to this fact.

The following from the Business Committee on the subject of secret societies was also approved by the Conference :

Iowa Yearly Meeting forwarded to the Conference a request for a statement upon the subject of our members joining secret societies. We find that the Discipline of that Yearly Meeting contains a clear article upon this subject which is in substantial accord with similar articles in the Discipline of other yearly meetings. We therefore deem it unnecessary to make any further declaration upon this subject at the present time.

The following committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements for holding the Conference five years hence, viz.:

**New England.*—Charles H. Jones.
New York.—James Wood.
Baltimore.—James Carey Thomas.
North Carolina.—Mary C. Woody.
Ohio.—J. Walter Malone.
Wilmington.—Levi Mills.

* *Chairman*—Timothy Nicholson, of Richmond, Ind.
Secretary—L. Maria Deane, of Pleasant Plain, Iowa.

Western.—P. W. Raidabaugh.
Indiana.—Timothy Nicholson.
Iowa.—L. Maria Deane.
Kansas.—Cyrus R. Dixon.
Oregon.—John Henry Douglas.
California.—William V. Coffin.
Canada.—Phebe J. Wright.

William L. Pyle and Eliza C. Armstrong were added to the Printing Committee.

The Business Committee offered the following suggestion, which was approved :

We suggest that the paper on a Hymnal, and the debate following, be published in the proceedings, and that all the remarks made on the misunderstanding of the resolution be expunged.

A Resolution of Courtesies was presented by the Business Committee and adopted as follows :

This Conference desires to express its appreciation of the labors that have contributed to the success of its sessions; we therefore extend our thanks—

1st. To the committee who had charge of the preparation of the reports of the preceding Conference.

2d. To the Committee on Programme for their care in its preparation.

3d. To the Committee on Local Arrangements, and to the Friends of Indianapolis for their generous hospitality.

4th. To those who have given so much time and careful thought to the preparation of papers for the Conference.

5th. To the Chairman, Secretaries, and other officers of the Conference for their faithfulness and efficiency.

We also extend to the press of Indianapolis our thanks for excellent reports of our proceedings.

A resolution of thanks to the Business Committee for faithful, untiring service was offered by Timothy Nicholson, and passed unanimously.

The Iowa delegation moved and several other delegations supported the motion to endorse the AMERICAN FRIEND and the FRIENDS' MISSIONARY ADVOCATE.

The motion was passed by the Conference. Endorsement was also given to the literature of our publishing house.

Stephen M. Hadley offered the following resolution, which was passed :

Resolved, That when this Conference adjourns we adjourn subject to meet at the call of the committee on the matter of Legislative Power for future Conferences and a uniform Discipline.

The minutes of the closing session were read and approved.

After a few moments of exhortation, prayer and praise the Third Quinquennial Conference of Friends in America concluded.

DECLARATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS OF FRIENDS' INDIANAPOLIS CONFERENCE OF 1897.

(Extracted from the foregoing Minutes.)

From information before the Conference it appeared that one hundred and forty-seven delegates had been appointed to the Conference by thirteen Yearly Meetings, and that one hundred and twenty-nine delegates or their duly accredited alternates, representing every one of the thirteen Yearly Meetings, were in attendance.

POSITION OF THE CONFERENCE.

The Conference reaffirms the original position of the Society of Friends upon the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith, and upon those more distinctive doctrines of the spiritual character of the Christian dispensation, the High Priesthood of Jesus Christ, the priesthood of all believers, and the absence of every form and degree of secerdotalism, the conferrence of divers gifts upon the Church and the rights of individual members in the exercise of their gifts in their proper spheres, under the leading of the Holy Spirit.

REGARDING CLOSER UNION OF THE YEARLY MEETINGS.

1. This Conference believes that much benefit would result to our branch of the Church of Christ from such a union of our yearly meetings as would tend to protect them from common dangers and to strengthen their joint participation in Christian work.

We believe this could be accomplished by the yearly legislative authority within distinctively defined spheres that would not interfere with the autonomy of the yearly meetings in their relation to their own members or to their separate interests.

2. It is advisable for this Conference to appoint a committee to consist of one representative from each yearly meeting to formulate a plan for closer union to be sub-

mitted to the yearly meetings for their approval, and which will become operative when adopted by such a number of them as may be agreed upon.

3. As many practical benefits would result from some uniform disciplinary regulations in all the yearly meetings on the American continent it is advisable to appoint a committee to consist of two representatives from each of the yearly meetings to prepare a Discipline for submission to the yearly meetings for their approval, and which will become operative in those accepting it when adopted by such a number of them as may be agreed upon.

It was decided that the two subjects be referred to one committee.

REGARDING THE INDIANS.

Whereas, There has been, from the early history of Friends in America until the present time, an earnest concern regarding the welfare of the native Indians, and for their advancement along the lines of Christian civilization;

And Whereas, There grew from such concern by successive steps an organized, united effort of the yearly meetings known as the Associated Executive Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs.

And Whereas, The said Associated Committee of delegates appointed by the yearly meetings has continued and is now carrying forward active mission work amongst remnants of several of the said Indian tribes, and represents the only united, organized work on the part of the American Yearly Meetings;

And Whereas, According to the best judgment of those familiar with the so-called Indian problem, the need for fostering care of the religious bodies engaged in missionary work has by no means diminished;

Resolved, That this Conference feels unity and sympathy with the said committee in its continued work, and desires its encouragement and financial support on the part of the several yearly meetings here represented;

Resolved, That Friends have a present duty to the Indian which can best be discharged by continued and earnest united effort.

REGARDING CHRISTIAN SOCIOLOGY.

We hold that the Gospel of Christ is the remedy for the ills of mankind and that it is wide-spread in its application and far-reaching in its results. It is facilitated in reaching men by the removal of the multitudinous barriers that surround them. Human society in all its interests needs its transforming power and Christians should be unremitting in every effort that will aid its work.

We therefore feel a deep interest in true Christian Sociology, and we distrust all the movements in this new science that are divorced from faith in Christ.

We feel that the Church has given too little attention in the past to this important field of effort, so that it has been sometimes left to infidelity and agnosticism to claim it as distinctively their own.

We hold that the Church should be more fully aroused to its great duty in this direction, and should realize that beside the preaching of the Gospel there is a wide sphere for its application until men are firmly builded into the living temple of God and stand securely in the most holy faith.

REGARDING "HIGHER CRITICISM."

In the activities of modern thought new questions are constantly presented to the Church. Among these are those growing out of what is called "Higher Criticism," and upon these true Christians desire to take correct positions. We desire to have the absolute truth of God; and we approve of the efforts of true scholarship that is consecrated to the service of God, to correct the text of the Scriptures; and we rejoice in all the investigations that aid in the true understanding of the revealed Word; but we wish to condemn the frequent attempts to attack the integrity of the Scriptures and to undermine their authority which varying forms of unbelief make upon the canon under the cloak of "Higher Criticism," and which work very serious injury to those who are misled by them. It sometimes requires a highly intelligent and sanctified judgment to detect the purpose of these attempts, and our church demands of its qualified members that they give

diligent attention to these and warn our members against them.

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IN REGARD TO JOINING SECRET SOCIETIES.

Iowa Yearly Meeting forwarded to the Conference a request for a statement upon the subject of our members joining secret societies. We find that the Discipline of that Yearly Meeting contains a clear article upon this subject which is in substantial accord with similar articles in the Discipline of other yearly meetings. We therefore deem it unnecessary to make any further declaration upon this subject at the present time.

REGARDING SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

The various gifts bestowed upon the Church by its gracious Head must be diligently fostered and used if His purposes toward us and through us to the world are to be fulfilled. Each gift must be recognized, encouraged and developed upon its own lines and exercised in its own proper sphere, the accompanying evidences of the Holy Spirit bearing witness to its authority. The Master is sometimes pleased to confer a single gift upon an individual and sometimes He endues His servants with a greater number, and for the true recognition of all these He gives to others a power of spiritual discernment. With an eye single upon the Master each must be faithful to that he has received.

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The Church should co-operate in the exercise of this gift by encouraging its development and ascertaining the best fields for its operation. The committees of the Church to whom this service is entrusted need divine enlightenment and guidance for their duties, and these should be performed by such a gentle exercise of authority as will best promote the service and cement the workers in loving accord.

The gifts of teaching and of speaking forth the mind and will of God are frequently associated in the enduement of a minister of the Word. As they are received through the Holy Spirit they can be profitably exercised only under His leading and direction. Faithfulness in these gifts implies faithfulness in everything that will aid their operation and increase their efficiency. Every operation of these gifts involves the use of the intellect. They are most efficient when the mind is trained so as to work clearly and accurately, and is stored with knowledge that can be used to expound and illustrate the truth of God. A slothful minister fails to accomplish the purposes of the Master for and through him. Each should diligently study to be approved of God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth.

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